



Date: January 22, 2009

To: City Manager for Council Action

From: Chief of Police

Subject: Request to Schedule a Public Hearing on February 10, 2009 for Public Comments on the City's Application to Apply for the Citizens Option for Public Safety (COPS) Grant for 2008-2009

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Included in the 2008-2009 California State Budget was a continuation of the funding described in Government Code Section 30061, also known as the "COPS" Act (Citizens Option for Public Safety). This bill reiterated the need for additional resources to be applied at local levels for the purpose of ensuring public safety, and allocates \$3,368,888 in funds to be distributed in Santa Clara County between the cities and County Agencies. The law requires that these funds be used exclusively to fund front line municipal police services and equipment, and that a written request be submitted by the Chief of Police. We expect to receive \$184,170 based on January 2008 population estimates provided by California Department of Finance.

The Police Department will be requesting that the \$184,170 from the COPS Grant for fiscal 2008-2009 be applied towards the cost purchasing equipment for the new communications and emergency dispatch center. Quality communications capabilities are a critical element of policing. Being able to provide our officers with the most advanced communications equipment will provide the citizens of Santa Clara with an even higher level of service.

One of the requirements of this Grant is that the City hold a Public Hearing before it is allowed to draw down the funds. February 10, 2009, is the requested date for this Hearing, at which time the public will be allowed to express their views on the proposed use of the funds.

ADVANTAGES AND DISADVANTAGES OF ISSUE:

The acceptance of these funds will allow the Police Department to continue to improve both the quantity and the quality of its' front line police services. These funds must supplement, not supplant, existing funding, as required by law.

This year's funding will be applied towards the purchasing of equipment for the new Communications center.

ECONOMIC/FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no economic/fiscal impact except staff time.

City Manager for Council Action

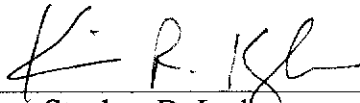
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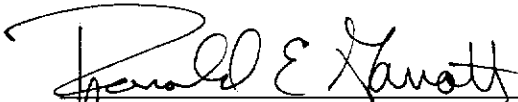
RECOMMENDATION:

That the Council set February 10, 2009, as the date of the Public Hearing to allow the public an opportunity to express views on the proposed use of the funds prior to the City accessing the funds.



for Stephen D. Lodge
Chief of Police

APPROVED:



Jennifer Sparacino
City Manager

Documents Related to this Report: None